

Presbyteries

TEXAS-MEXICAN PRESBYTERY.

The Texas-Mexican Presbytery, which was organized last July, held its first regular meeting in the Mexican Presbyterian church in San Antonio, Texas, April 6-12. Rev. Walter S. Scott, the retiring moderator, preached the opening sermon upon "The Office and Duties of the Ruling Elder." 1 Pet. 5: 1-4; Acts 20: 28. Present: Five ministers and fourteen ruling elders. Our three licensed preachers were also in attendance.

Organization: Rev. R. D. Campbell, moderator; Elder Valentine H. Alcala, temporary clerk.

Received: Mr. Miguel Peralta, a licensed preacher, was received from the Presbytery of the City of Mexico, Synod of Mexico. Three young men were taken under the care of Presbytery as probationers for the Gospel ministry; Reyes Gutierrez, of the Hondo church, Azael Marroquin, of the San Antonio church, and Guillermo Walls, son of the deceased efficient and faithful colporter of the American Bible Society, Mr. W. A. Walls. We have seven candidates now.

Addresses: Rev. Brooks I. Dickey addressed the Presbytery in behalf of the Executive Committee of Home Missions. We were highly privileged to have with us ex-Governor Glenn, of North Carolina. He told us that that had been the first time he had spoken to an audience through an interpreter. We had four Calvin anniversary addresses: Rev. C. C. Acevedo, "The Times of Calvin; His Biography Until His Conversion"; Rev. E. S. Rodriguez, "Calvin's Biography From His Conversion Until His Death; His Character and Influence"; Rev. Reynaldo Avila, "Calvin as a Reformer in the Political and Ecclesiastical Sphere; His Influence on Modern Civilization"; Rev. R. D. Campbell, "Calvin as a Theologian and Bible Commentator." The missionary sermon was preached Sunday night by Rev. E. Trevino. A collection was taken up that night of \$14 to aid in the erection of a chapel at Hidalgo, Mexico, to the memory of the late Dr. A. T. Graybill.

Overtures from the General Assembly: The Presbytery consented to the proposed amendment to the Book of Church Order, Chapter XIII. It answered "No" to the question with reference to any change to the Confession of Faith.

Sabbath and Family Religion: All the ministers were requested to preach a sermon on the Sabbath and family religion before the next regular meeting. The sessions were ordered to canvass their churches and ascertain how many families observe family worship.

Churches Organized: Evangelist R. D. Campbell reported the organization of a church at Darwin, Webb county, with fourteen members, to be known as the church of "El Buen Pastor." Evangelist W. S. Scott reported the erection of a chapel in San Antonio to be used as a branch mission of the Mexican Presbyterian church and to be known as "Faith Chapel."

Commissioners: Rev. R. D. Campbell, principal; Rev. W. S. Scott, alternate. Ruling elders: E. Sanchez, of San Antonio, and W. C. Chamberlain, of Laredo.

A letter of fraternal greetings was sent to the Presbytery of Tamaulipas, Mexico. The American Bible Society was petitioned not to attempt to make a new translation of the Bible into Spanish, but rather to revise and correct the modern version.

A Memorial Service was held in memory of Margarito Rodriguez, a licensed preacher, who died December 1, 1908.

Reports: A partial report was made by the Committee on the Manual. The reports by the various permanent committees were most gratifying, and the outlook for this infant Presbytery is indeed most helpful.

Fall Meeting: Corpus Christi.
Elias Trevino, S. C.

PRESBYTERY OF EASTERN TEXAS.

The Presbytery of Eastern Texas met at San Augustine, Texas, April 20, 1909, at 8 p. m. At the request of the moderator the sermon was preached by Rev. J. C. Oehler, of Palestine, from the text, 2 Tim. 4: 2: "Preach the Word, be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine." Present: Seven ministers and ten ruling elders.

Officers: Rev. J. L. Stitt, of Rusk, moderator; L. F. Gerlach, of Livingston, temporary clerk.

Received: Rev. J. H. Davies was received from the Presbytery of Mangum and Rev. Geo. E. Clothier was dismissed to the Presbytery of Brazos. Two new churches, Wildhurst and Wells, both in Cherokee county, were enrolled.

Evangelistic Authority was conferred upon Rev. J. C. Oehler and Rev. J. H. Davies.

Home Missions: The committee's report indicated much good work being done, the churches were asked to enlarge their gifts at least twenty per cent over last year. There are two fields of labor for which the committee desire to provide a minister in the home mission work. Steps were taken looking to the erection of a much needed school building for the Alabama Indians in the near future.

Foreign Missions: A popular meeting was held in the interest of this cause, presided over by Rev. F. E. Robbins, and stirring addresses were made by Rev. J. H. Davies and Rev. J. C. Oehler.

Systematic Contributions: Presbytery heartily endorsed the plan of the Assembly's committee for a thoroughly organized canvass of the membership of each church for systematic contributions on weekly basis and for the appointment of special missionary committees in the individual congregations to carry out this plan. Special appreciative mention was made of the largely increased interest and contributions for this cause in the Palestine First Church.

The Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Union held a very profitable meeting at the same time and place with Presbytery. This is their first annual meeting and they report an enrollment of twelve societies.

Rev. C. W. Chambers, missionary to the Alabama Indians, was in attendance upon the meeting of Presbytery with two of his Indians, having made the trip of eighty miles across the country by private conveyance. He hopes to rebuild his home, recently destroyed by fire, with all his effects. Mr. Chambers was requested to gather all available

data pertaining to the Indian church and make record of same, the Presbytery donating a suitable record book.

American Bible Society: Presbytery recommended that our churches earnestly co-operate with the American Bible Society in its efforts to meet the proposition of Mrs. Russell Sage, to donate \$500,000, provided a like amount be secured in other donations.

The John Calvin Celebration was a very interesting and profitable occasion. An able paper on the "Distinctive Principles of Calvinism," by Rev. G. S. Robinson, was read, and Rev. J. C. Oehler made a strong address on "The Past and Present Influence of Calvinism in Shaping Character, and How Its Principles May Be Made Most Effective For the Future."

After greatly enjoying our meeting with perhaps the oldest Presbyterian church in the state, and the gracious hospitality of the historic town of San Augustine, Presbytery adjourned to meet at Livingston, September 14, at 8 p. m.

F. E. Robbins, S. C.

LOUISVILLE PRESBYTERY.

The Presbytery of Louisville met in the Westminster Presbyterian church, Louisville, April 20, at 7:30 p. m. The opening sermon was preached by the retiring moderator, Rev. E. W. Bedinger, D. D., from the text, 1 Cor. 1: 21.

Officers: Rev. Henry H. Sweets, moderator, and Elder J. A. Logan, temporary clerk. There were present twenty-seven ministers and twenty-seven ruling elders.

Received: Licentiate J. E. Detweiler, from St. Paul Presbytery, U. S. A.

Licensed: Mr. Robt. S. Boyd.

Dismissed: Rev. Wm. Megginson, to Meridian Presbytery; Rev. G. F. Bell, to East Alabama Presbytery; Licentiate J. V. Logan, to Transylvania Presbytery.

Ordination: Licentiates J. E. Detweiler and R. S. Boyd were examined for ordination, and commissions appointed to ordain and install them, Mr. Detweiler as pastor at Eminence and Pleasureville, on April 28, and Mr. Boyd at Hawesville, Morrison and Lewisport, May 16.

Church Organized: The Bardstown Road church, of Louisville, was reported organized November 19, and was enrolled.

Calvin Celebration: The Presbytery requested the churches to provide a fund to publish the addresses on Calvin, by Dr. C. R. Hemphill, Dr. H. E. Dosker, Dr. R. A. Webb and Dr. W. H. Marquess. The stated clerk was instructed to arrange for the publication of 1,500 copies of the addresses.

Overture: The Presbytery of Louisville would respectfully overture the General Assembly to adopt such measures, as in your wisdom you may see proper, to put our home mission work on the same platform, side by side with foreign missions, thus enlisting the prayers, efforts and gifts of the laymen of our church in furthering the great cause of missions, both home and foreign.

Rev. J. O. Needham requested that he be released from serving Boston church two Sundays a month, and be allowed to preach for this church only once a month. The Boston church was cited to appear by its commissioners at an adjourned meeting to be held at the call